

Announcement No.: SW-2006-16Opening Date: July 14, 2006Closing Date: July 28, 2006

# MERIT PROMOTION

## Vacancy Announcement

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

SOUTHWESTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION

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**POSITION:** **EQUIPMENT OPERATOR WB-4741-00, \$18.88 per hour**  
**(\$19.63 per hour effective 10/01/06)**

**ORGANIZATION LOCATION:** Southwestern Power Administration  
Office of Corporate Facilities  
Division of Gore/Jonesboro Transmission Maintenance

**DUTY LOCATION:** Jonesboro, Arkansas

**PROMOTION POTENTIAL:** None

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**WHO MAY APPLY:** **Nation-wide status candidates.** (Status candidates are current career or career-conditional employees of the Federal Government.) All applicants will receive consideration for appointment without regard to race, religion, color, national origin, sex, political affiliation, age, or any other non-merit factor. This position is advertised under two announcements, **SW-2006-16** and **DEU-SW-2006-12**. If you are a current federal employee, or you are eligible for reinstatement, or you are eligible under a special appointing authority, you may apply under both announcements and receive dual consideration. If you do not meet these conditions, you must apply under **DEU-SW-2006-12**. This is a permanent, full-time position.

**GENERAL INFORMATION ABOUT SOUTHWESTERN POWER ADMINISTRATION:** Southwestern Power Administration (Southwestern) was created in 1943 to market power and energy produced at the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hydroelectric power projects. Twenty-four Federal multi-purpose water resource projects (dams) generate electricity that is provided to homes and businesses in a six-state area: Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Texas. To integrate the operation of the hydroelectric generating plants, Southwestern maintains 1,380 miles of high-voltage transmission lines, 24 substations, and 46 microwave towers. Seventeen of the 24 generating plants are scheduled directly by Southwestern. Nineteen generating plants contribute to the interconnected system operations. Generation at five projects serves specific customer loads. For more information about Southwestern, visit our Internet web site at: [www.swpa.gov](http://www.swpa.gov).

**DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:** Operates and maintains large farm-type tractor equipped with brush-cutting attachment and side trimming machines, in the clearing/cutting of heavy brush along transmission line rights-of-way. In areas not accessible by large equipment, clearing will be accomplished by hand utilizing portable saws, hand saws or machetes in the felling and trimming of trees and brush along transmission line rights-of-way; in substations sites and pole yard sites. Operates large tractor or bulldozer equipment used in excavation, leveling, road building, hoisting, towing and hauling work. Operates pneumatic tools for drilling rock and excavating pole and anchor holes for transmission line maintenance projects. Applies herbicide for brush/tree control to transmission line rights-of-way with land owners' permission. Performs periodic inspection and preventive maintenance on equipment and vehicles used by making simple adjustments to equipment used. As required, performs manual labor of loading, unloading or carrying materials, supplies, or equipment

**PHYSICAL DEMANDS:** The work requires physical exertion, such as long periods of standing, walking over and working in rough, uneven, or rocky surfaces; recurring bending, crouching, stooping, stretching, reaching, or similar activities; recurring lifting and handling items weighing up to 100 pounds; and working with heavy specialized industrial equipment. The work may require specific, but common, physical characteristics and abilities such as above average agility and dexterity.

**WORK ENVIRONMENT:** The work is performed in remote outdoor field locations with exposure to various weather conditions (wind, rain, dust, hot sun, cold weather). Employee is exposed to unpleasant noise levels, vibrations, and jolting from various equipment. Work is performed whereas employee is exposed to danger from an atmosphere of high-voltage electricity. Travels and lodges in remote locations frequently. (Although not on standby status, the candidate selected is subject to call at anytime to perform emergency work and is encouraged to establish permanent residence within a one-hour commuting distance of the duty station.) The current work schedule is four 10-hour days weekly, Monday through Thursday.

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** Applicants must be found qualified to do the work of an Equipment Operator. In their application material, they must indicate that they possess sufficient experience, knowledge and skills to satisfactorily perform the duties of the position without more than normal supervision. The ability to do the work of an equipment operator without more than normal supervision will be used as a screen-out, and any applicant not indicating an adequate level of this ability will be eliminated from further consideration. Applicants will be evaluated according to the procedural guidelines in OPM Handbook X-118C, which can be found on the Internet at:

<http://www.opm.gov/qualifications/x-118C/index.htm>.

Applicants must have had experience and training that indicate sufficient knowledge, skill, and ability to meet the requirements of the job elements (ranking factors) listed below:

1. Ability to do the work of the position without more than normal supervision. (**This is a screen-out\* element.**)
2. Ability to operate equipment and utilize materials safely and work safely around high-voltage transmission line rights-of-way and maintenance facilities.
3. Ability to operate equipment with attached or towed auxiliary equipment.
4. Ability to attach and adjust equipment and perform operator maintenance.
5. Ability to interpret and follow instructions.

**\*Screen-Out Element:** Critical knowledge, skills, and abilities which are essential for satisfactory job performance. Applicants must score two points out of a possible four points on the screen-out element to be deemed eligible for consideration.

NOTE: Status applicants (current Federal employees) must meet qualification and time-after-competitive-appointment requirements within 30 days of the closing date of this announcement.

**BASIS OF EVALUATION:** Applicants who meet the qualification requirements will be rated on the basis of relevant experience, education, related volunteer experience, training, job-related awards, and the five (5) ranking factors listed above in Qualifications Requirements. **To receive proper consideration, ALL applicants should address the ranking factors above by completing the Supplemental Qualifications Statement, which is part of this Recruiting Announcement. If the Supplemental Qualifications Statement is not included with the applicant's application package, the applicant will be considered ineligible for consideration.** (If the Supplemental Qualifications Statement has become separated from this announcement, contact Beverly Yenter at (918) 595-6639 or at [bev.yenter@swpa.gov](mailto:bev.yenter@swpa.gov) for an application package, or, the statement can be downloaded from Southwestern's website: <http://www.swpa.gov/careers.htm>.)

**SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS/CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT:**

- A. Applicants must be citizens of the United States (or owe allegiance to the United States).
- B. Applicants must be at least 16 years of age to apply for this vacancy.
- C. Public Law 103-356 requires direct deposit of Federal wage, salary, travel reimbursement, and retirement payments by electronic funds transfer from recipients who begin receiving such payments on or after January 1, 1995.
- D. Incumbent is subject to frequent travel.
- E. **Background Investigation:** This is a position that requires a brief background investigation prior to entering on duty. This brief background investigation may take up to three weeks to successfully adjudicate before selectee may begin employment. A comprehensive background investigation will commence upon effective date of hire and may take up to 9 months to adjudicate. Unsuccessful adjudication will result in the termination of employment.
- F. Applicant must possess and maintain a Commercial Driver's License (CDL) prior to appointment.
- G. **Pre-employment Physical:** Upon tentative selection, applicant will be required to complete a physical examination. Unsatisfactory results from the physical will result in non-appointment.
- H. **Drug/Alcohol Testing:** Upon tentative selection, applicant will be tested for drug/alcohol consumption. A determination of the use of illegal drugs may lead to non-appointment. The incumbent will be subject to future random, unannounced drug/alcohol testing.
- I. **Probationary Period:** The first year of Federal civilian service of an employee who is given a career or career-conditional appointment is a probationary period, in accordance with 5 CFR Section 315.801. Unsatisfactory performance or misconduct during the probationary period may lead to termination of employment, per Section 315.804. Any current Federal employee selected for this position who has not completed their probationary period will be on probation in this position until that probationary period has been served.
- J. Male applicants born after December 31, 1959, must certify that they have registered with the Selective Service System or are exempt from having to do so under the Selective Service Law.
- K. **Relocation Expenses:** None will be provided.
- L. Status applicants (current Federal employees) must meet qualification and time-after-competitive-appointment requirements within 30 days of the closing date of this announcement.

**Applicant Certification:** Before appointment, applicant will be required to certify that all information contained on or attached to his/her application is complete, true, accurate, and made in good faith as well as providing other suitability information. This certification will be made with the understanding that the information may be investigated, and false or fraudulent information on your application may be grounds for not hiring you, for firing you after you begin work, or be punishable by fine or imprisonment.

**HOW TO APPLY:** Candidates may submit a resume, or other documents such as an optional Federal employment application or a general employment application form. **Your application must include:**

- A. Information described in the Office of Personnel Management pamphlet, "Applying for a Federal Job," which can be found at Internet web site: <http://www.opm.gov/forms/pdfimage/of0510.pdf>. At a minimum this includes: Announcement number (SW-2006-16), title (Equipment Operator), and grade of position applying for (WB-4741-00) on the front page of application or resume; your full name, mailing address, telephone numbers; your social security number; country of citizenship; your work and education background.

- B. Additional information/completed forms should be submitted if applicable:
1. Most recent copy of your SF-50, Notification of Personnel Action. (Applies to current or previous Federal employees)
  2. **Supplemental Qualifications Statement (mandatory for consideration).**

Failure to submit requested information/documents may result in non-consideration or a lower rating in the evaluation process. **Applications that do not include the Supplemental Qualifications Statement will be considered incomplete and ineligible for consideration.**

Submit complete application package to:  
**Southwestern Power Administration**  
**Attn: Beverly Yenter, S-6200**  
**One West Third Street**  
**Tulsa, OK 74103-3519**  
**Email [bev.yenter@swpa.gov](mailto:bev.yenter@swpa.gov)**  
**FAX (918) 595-6656**

Applications received in the mail must be postmarked on or before the closing date and received in Southwestern's Human Resources Management Office within five (5) working days after the closing date of the vacancy announcement. Emailed or faxed applications must be received by the closing date of this announcement. Do not send original documents; applications will not be returned. **Applications mailed in Government-franked envelopes, faxed using government fax machines, or emailed from government email accounts will NOT be accepted.**

This job announcement is only one source of candidates the selecting official can use to fill positions. Management reserves the right to fill more than one position from this announcement within 90 days of the closing date.

#### **Assistance Programs**

**Placement Assistance Programs:** Individuals entitled to priority consideration under the Interagency Career Transition Assistance Program (ICTAP) and/or Department of Energy's Career Transition Assistance Program **MUST** submit the documentation listed below with their application package:

- A. RIF separation notice; a letter from OPM or your agency documenting your priority consideration status;
- B. Current (last) performance appraisal rating of record (must be successful or equivalent—or better);
- C. Narrative statement (GS positions), or Supplemental Qualifications Statement (WB positions), addressing the knowledge, skills, and ability factors listed under Qualification Requirements in this announcement; and
- D. Documentation showing the promotion potential of the position from which you may be or have been separated. (Applicants are eligible for consideration only for vacancies that have no higher promotion potential.)
- E. Eligible employees must be determined to be well qualified for this position. Well-qualified means an eligible employee possesses the knowledge, skills, and abilities that clearly exceed the minimum qualification requirements for the position.

**VETERANS EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES ACT (VEOA) OF 1998:** The Veterans Employment Opportunities Act of 1998, as amended by Section 511 of the Veterans Millennium Health Care Act (Pub. Law 106-117), of November 30, 1999, provides that agencies must allow eligible veterans to apply for positions announced under merit promotion procedures when the agency is recruiting from outside its own workforce. A VEOA eligible who competes under merit promotion procedures and is selected will be given a career or career-conditional appointment. Veterans' preference is not a factor in these appointments. *This announcement is recruiting outside the Department of Energy workforce, thus allowing eligible veterans to make application for this position, which is open to current Federal employees. Eligible veterans may apply and receive consideration as if they were current Federal employees, but such veterans will not receive preference in the form of extra points added to their rating. Additional information is available in OPM's Vet Guide, found at: <http://www.opm.gov/veterans/ref.asp>.*

**REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION:** This agency provides reasonable accommodation to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify this agency. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.

**CONTACT:** For further information, you may contact Beverly Yenter at (918) 595-6639 or at [bev.yenter@swpa.gov](mailto:bev.yenter@swpa.gov)

**THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.  
A HARASSMENT-FREE WORK ENVIRONMENT IS SOUTHWESTERN'S POLICY.**

What's said about Jonesboro, Arkansas? Visit Jonesboro Area Chamber of Commerce's Internet web site:  
<http://www.jonesborochamber.com/>